

1. A method of forming a superabsorbent, water-resistant coating on the surface of an article comprising:

- a) preparing an aqueous liquid coating composition comprising: a water-soluble superabsorbent polymer precursor in aqueous solution, a binder in aqueous solution, an optional viscosity-modifying agent, and an optional lubricant;
- b) applying said liquid coating composition to the surface of the article to form a liquid coating; and
- c) drying and curing the liquid coating composition on the surface of the article to form a water-absorbing, water-resistant coating of superabsorbent polymer that absorbs water when it is wetted and desorbs water when it is dried.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of applying the liquid coating composition to the surface of the article comprises contacting the liquid coating composition with the surface of the article to form a layer of liquid coating over the entire surface of the article.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said polymer precursor is selected from the group consisting of anionic alkali salts and alkali metal salts of said superabsorbent polymer precursor.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said polymer precursor is a polyacrylate polymer precursor.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said binder is a film-forming binder.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein said binder is selected from the group consisting of polyesters, polyurethanes, epoxies, latex and mixtures thereof.

7. The method of claim 4, wherein said viscosity-modifying agent is a polyacrylamide.

8. The method of claim 4, wherein said step of preparing said aqueous liquid coating composition further includes adding at least one wetting agent.